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Contra leader accepts U.S. cash, conditions

LOS ANGELES [UPI]—The Reagan administration has resumed nonlethal aid to Nicaraguan rebel leader Eden Pastora, who will accept control of a contra umbrella organization in its fight to oust the Sandinista government, it was reported Wednesday.

Officials in Washington told the Los Angeles Times that Pastora is to receive about \$400,000 from the U.S. to clear debts and boost his Costa Rica-based guerrilla operation.

In exchange, Pastora has promised to accept the leadership of the United Democratic Organization [UNO], the U.S.-sponsored contra umbrella organization, sources told the newspaper.

Pastora, who became known as "Commander Zero" in the war against Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza, also has been promised a share of the \$100 million in aid proposed for the contras by the Reagan ad-

ministration, the newspaper said.

Pastora won fame as the Sandinista leader of a daring 1978 raid that captured Nicaragua's National Assembly building, but he broke ties with the Sandinistas in 1981 after they had come to power.

"He's back in it," a State Department official said. "We hope this strengthens UNO as an organization."

Other administration officials were skeptical whether Pastora, who resisted U.S. direction when he received secret CIA funding from 1982 to 1984, will be easier to deal with this time, the Times said.

"He's still impossible," said one aide who met with Pastora in Washington last week.

Pastora, reached through aides in Los Angeles, where he was on a fundraising trip, declined to comment on the U.S. officials' reports. But sources close to him told the Times that the funding had been arranged.